



*Embassy of the United States of America
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

WARDEN MESSAGE

June 14, 2011

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, the Consulate General in Dhahran and the Consulate General in Jeddah request that wardens pass the following message in its entirety to the U.S. citizen community:

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, the Consulate General in Dhahran and the Consulate General in Jeddah would like to remind U.S. citizens of the security situation in Saudi Arabia and of recommended security precautions. The Department of State urges U.S. citizens to consider carefully the risks of traveling to Saudi Arabia. There is an ongoing security threat due to the continued presence of terrorist groups, some affiliated with al Qaida, who may target Western interests, housing compounds, hotels, shopping areas and other facilities where Westerners congregate. These terrorist groups may employ a wide variety of tactics. Most recently, al Qa'ida's central leadership's media wing, al-Sahab, released a 100-minute documentary calling for extremists to carry out individual "lone-wolf"-styled attacks in western countries, (specifically naming the United States, the UK, and France), and have distributed it widely on jihadist forums and mainstream video sites.

The United States Mission reminds U.S. citizens that publicly available information can be exploited by terrorist groups employing lone-wolf tactics. Unlike other means of acquiring information on a target, such as surveillance, this type of information gathering requires no training. The Internet can be used to ascertain biographical data, pictures, and addresses of U.S. citizens. In addition to company and other websites, social media can disclose damaging information. Biographical data is often easy to find. In addition, posting pictures can identify your frequent destinations and acquaintances through tagging. Many social media users also unknowingly post geotagged photos, revealing the exact locations where the pictures were taken. U.S. citizens should remain cautious and vigilant about personal information that is shared publicly, in the best interest of personal security.

Terrorist groups may also target Saudi Government facilities, and economic and commercial targets within the Kingdom. While Saudi security forces have made significant progress in counteracting the terrorist threat within Saudi Arabia, and continue to arrest and break up terrorist cells, terrorist threats can never fully be eliminated.

U.S. citizens who choose to visit Saudi Arabia are strongly urged to avoid staying in hotels or housing compounds that do not appear to apply stringent security measures, and be aware of their surroundings when visiting commercial establishments frequented by Westerners. U.S. citizens should keep a low profile, vary times and routes of travel, exercise caution while

driving, entering or exiting vehicles, and ensure that travel documents and visas are current and valid.

U.S. citizens should stay current with media coverage of local and regional events, and bear in mind that media coverage may cause family and friends to become concerned for their loved ones traveling and residing abroad. We urge U.S. citizens to keep in regular contact with family and friends and when traveling abroad are encouraged to enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), which can be found at: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> to receive the latest travel updates and information and to obtain updated information on travel and security issues. By enrolling, U.S. citizens make it easier for the U.S. Embassy or Consulates to contact them in case of emergency.

Warden messages can be found on the U.S. Embassy Riyadh website: <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov> and general travel information is available at www.travel.state.gov. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

For information on "What the Department of State Can and Can't Do in a Crisis," please visit the Bureau of Consular Affairs' website at www.travel.state.gov. For further information on specific countries, U.S. citizens should consult the Country Specific Information pages, Travel Alerts, and Travel Warnings at www.travel.state.gov as well as the Worldwide Caution. Follow us on Twitter and the Bureau of Consular Affairs' page on Facebook as well.

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U.S. citizens are reminded to keep their travel enrollment up-to-date. See <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/> for registration information. You can also review earlier Warden Messages at <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service/advisories-for-americans-in-ksa/warden-messages.html>.

General Inquiries: RiyadhACS@state.gov; or DhahranACS@state.gov or JeddahACS@state.gov

Registration Inquiries: RegistrationRID@state.gov

ACS Website: <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service.html>